*AP Biology Summer Assignment 2015-2016*

Welcome to AP Biology! Congratulations on deciding to take on the challenge of an Advanced Placement Course. AP Biology is an intensive, yet manageable and rewarding class. From the first day, we will be on a mission to cover all of the material found on the end of year exam. In order to fulfill the requirements of the extensive curriculum, it will be necessary for you to complete some work over the summer – material that should be achievable with minimal review from your previous Biology course. Who doesn't love Mitosis and Genetics? I know you remember Punnett Squares!

*What are you required to do?*

**Part #1 (Introduction Letter)**

First, I would like to know a little about who you are so your first assignment is to send me an email. That's not so hard! Communication with me, as well as your classmates, is essential to a successful year – so we may as well get started. Please email answers to the following questions to [jdn0529@gmail.com](mailto:jdn0529@gmail.com) **before the end of this school year:**

**Subject Line:** AP Biology 15-16, Your Name

**Body:** Your full name (and nickname if you would like to be called something else)

* Who was your last science teacher? What class?
* What other science classes have you taken? Are you planning to take next year?
* What do you like to do? (hobbies, sports, music, interests, etc.)
* Was there anything that you liked or disliked about your earlier biology class?
* What are you looking forward to the most in AP Biology?
* What are you most anxious about in AP Biology?
* **Why are you taking AP Biology? What do you hope to accomplish/gain?**

Don't worry – there is no right or wrong answer to these questions. Just be honest so that I can figure out the best way to help everyone next year! Remember, I am your future teacher (not your FB friend) so please use proper salutations, closing, phrasing, etc. Although even old people use email, we really h8 when u write like this bc it really really hurts our eyes.

**Part #2 (Websites)**

Go to the following websites and bookmark them.

* **First:** My website for this class. Here is where you will find the Powerpoint presentations for the summer project. I will have to make some adjustments for the new assignments, but they will be up shortly. Follow the directions on the website to receive an invite for the Wiki. <http://phsnguyen.wikispaces.com/>
* **Second:** A Youtube channel with summary lectures for many different scientific concepts. We will use the video lists called AP Bio essentials & Biology. This teacher is excellent. In order to cover all of the information for the AP test, it is important that you remember what you learned in Biology so that we can cover it more in depth (and more quickly!) For topics over the summer (and throughout the year….) if you cannot remember the basics, please look here for a quick review. <https://www.youtube.com/user/bozemanbiology?feature=results_main> (or youtube search: bozemanbiology)

**Part #3 (Summer Assignment)**

All of the Powerpoint presentations and assignments will be posted on my website. All assignments must be *completed in your own handwriting*. **The assignment will be due the first Friday back (9/4).** There will also be our first test on this material on the following Friday (9/11). It is suggested that you click through the Powerpoint presentations first to review the material. Then, begin work on the packet. Refer to your book and online resources (like Bozeman) for additional clarification. This material is the most straightforward part of your previous Biology class – I know that you can do it! Do not wait until the last minute to complete the assignment, or you will begin the year feeling quite overwhelmed.

*Facts about the class:*

Again, congratulations on choosing to take a serious step towards your science education. The reward of AP Biology is that it can benefit EVERY student entering college. If you are planning on continuing to study science, I assure you that every concept you learn this year will be covered again in your next Biology class (only more information in less time). If you are not planning on studying science, it is possible that if you score high enough on the AP exam, ***you may never have to take another science course ever again*** (not that I would recommend that of course….). So please, do not treat this material as something simply to 'get it over with' and 'pray you do well enough on the next test'. Everything we learn will build towards a greater understanding necessary for the AP test in May; moreover everything we learn will serve as the foundation for your biology learning throughout college.

AP Biology should NOT be considered 'college prep.' This is a COLLEGE course – with college level expectations for behavior, attendance, participation, and effort. In order for you to learn more, you will have to do more. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO STUDY INDEPENDENTLY! At the college level, it is the teacher's job to teach and the students' job to learn. Keeping this in mind is the only way that we can cover all of the material in seven short months.

*A final note:*

Don't be intimidated! **If you want to succeed you will.** I am confident that if everyone puts forth the effort necessary, we will have an extremely successful year! Of course, it will take some work – but if you trust me and follow through with the ambition and desire that I know you have, by this time next year you will be leaving AP Biology with confidence and have a new perspective on the world around you.

Again – don't procrastinate on your summer assignments. The material you are responsible for learning this summer is just as important as the information we will learn a week before the exam (except I won't be lecturing on mitosis or genetics!) Schedule some time just for AP Biology. I know that you have lots of work in other classes as well, but believe me: when you start a brand new school year in September, the only regrets you will have is that you did not spend enough time preparing for what will be an awesome year!

Please feel free to email me over the summer if you have questions. While I do have a new, tiny, yet loud distraction this summer, I will check it periodically. I cannot wait to get started!

*Mr. Jonathan Nguyen*

Jdn0529@gmail.com